

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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BERIAM ORTIZ,  
Plaintiff,

-against-

07-CV-10365

ERIN KATHLEEN BARLOW, TOYOTA  
MOTOR CREDIT CORP., and CAROL  
SHERMAN,

Defendants.

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**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN PARTIAL  
OPPOSITION TO CROSS-MOTION**

Respectfully submitted,

JAY S. HAUSMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
280 North Central Avenue, Suite 40  
Hartsdale, New York 10530  
(914)946-3344

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

This personal injury action stems from a three vehicle accident that occurred on April 20, 2007, at approximately 5:00 p.m., on Bruckner Boulevard at or near its intersection with East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York. The plaintiff moved this Honorable Court for partial summary judgment, determining issues of liability against the defendant Erin Kathleen Barlow. Defendant Carol Sherman has now cross-moved for summary judgment, requesting the dismissal of the complaint and all cross-claims against her. This Memorandum of Law is submitted to address the arguments of defendant Sherman.

**ARGUMENT**

Consistent with the plaintiff's affidavit, the defendant Sherman claims that she was traveling in slow moving traffic when she heard a crash somewhere behind her vehicle. This, obviously, was the contact between the defendant Barlow's vehicle and the vehicle of the plaintiff. Two to three seconds later, defendant Sherman felt a contact to the rear of her vehicle. This would be the point in which the plaintiff's vehicle was pushed into the vehicle of defendant Sherman, after being struck by defendant Barlow's vehicle. Thus, defendant Sherman's affidavit puts to rest defendant Barlow's surmise that there may have been a contact between the plaintiff and defendant Sherman's vehicle prior to her collision with the vehicle of the plaintiff.

Consistent with the plaintiff's assertions, the defendant Sherman also attests that defendant Barlow stated, after the accident, that she did not see the vehicle in front of her (the vehicle of the plaintiff) because she was looking at an atlas. This admission against interest clearly establishes defendant Sherman's liability for the happening of this accident. All of the affidavits of the parties indicate that the fault for the happening of this accident is with defendant

Barlow. Pertinently, even defendant Barlow admits looking at a map just prior to striking the plaintiff's vehicle.

Despite Barlow's attempts to divert attention from her negligence, by speculating and making unsubstantiated allegations, there is no evidence to suggest that any fault for the happening of this accident rests with any other party. *See Payne v. Pauley*, 337 F.3d 767, 772 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)(although personal knowledge may include reasonable inferences, those inferences must be grounded in observation or other first hand personal experience and must not be flights of fancy, speculations, or hunches). Even presuming that the plaintiff changed lanes prior to the happening of this accident, as defendant Barlow suggests, the lane change had been completed prior to the occurrence. As can be seen from the photographs annexed to Plaintiff's Affirmation in Partial Opposition as Exhibit "A," this was a direct rear end accident. Defendant Barlow did not contact the right rear, or left rear of the plaintiff's vehicle. Nor did defendant Barlow contact the side of the plaintiff's vehicle.

A lane change is not negligence. Had the defendant Barlow been looking at the roadway, she would not have made contact with the plaintiff's vehicle. Nonetheless, should this Court find that issues of fact preclude an award of summary judgment to the plaintiff, plaintiff opposes defendant Sherman's application for summary judgment until such time as discovery has been conducted.

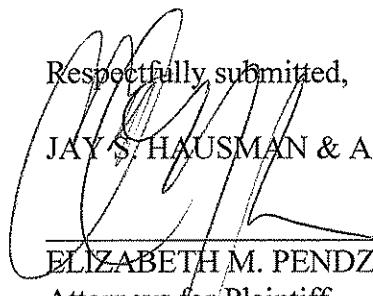
**CONCLUSION**

For all the forgoing reasons, plaintiff's application should be granted by this Honorable Court.

Respectfully submitted,

JAY S. HAUSMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By:

ELIZABETH M. PENDZICK (EMP-4476)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

280 North Central Avenue, Suite 40

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(914)946-3344

Sir-Please take note that the within is a (certified) true copy of a  
duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named  
court on

2008

Dated,

Yours, etc.,

**JAY S. HAUSMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.***Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)**Office and Post Office Address*

280 North Central Avenue-Suite 40

Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

To

All Counsel

Attorney(s) for

Plaintiff(s)

-against-

**ERIN KATHLEEN BARLOW, TOYOTA MOTOR  
CREDIT, CORP. and CAROL SHERMAN,**

Defendant(s)

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= NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT =

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MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN PARTIAL  
OPPOSITION TO CROSS-MOTION

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of which the within is a true copy will be presented for

settlement to the Hon.

one of the judges of the within named Court, at

on

2008

at

Dated.

M.

Yours, etc.

**JAY S. HAUSMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.***Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)**Office and Post Office Address*

280 North Central Avenue-Suite 40

Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

To

Attorney(s)

ALL COUNSEL

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Service of a copy of the within

is hereby admitted.

Dated, \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney(s) for

To

All Counsel

Civil Action Number: 07-CV-10365

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**BERIAM ORTIZ,**

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NOTICE OF ENTRY

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